

REMARKS

In the present Office action, applicant is directed to elect claims in either Group I or II for examination. In addition, the Preliminary Amendment submitted by applicant on April 16, 2001 is rejected on the basis that it did not comply with the Revised Amendment Format set forth in 37 CFR 1.21(c). Applicant elects Group I claims without traverse, withdraws the Preliminary Amendment filed on April 16, 2001, cancels claim 4, amends originally filed claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, and 10-15, and adds claims 49-60.

As a preliminary matter, the rejected Preliminary Amendment was filed on April 16, 2001, more than two years prior to the implementation of the Revised Amendment Format. However, to move prosecution of the application forward, applicant hereby withdraws the Preliminary Amendment and amends the originally filed claims as indicated above.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant elects prosecution of Group I. The Action indicates that Group I includes claims 1-11. Applicant amends claims 12-15 to depend directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1. Applicant therefore submits that claims 1-3 and 5-15, as amended, properly fall within Group I. Applicant also adds claims 49-60 and submits that they, too, properly fall within Group I. Therefore, applicant hereby withdraws claims 16-48 and requests examination of claims 1-3, 4-15, and 49-60.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the above listed claims are in condition for allowance and requests that the claims be passed on to allowance in due course. Applicant believes that no fees are due in connection with filing of this response. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945 under Order No. PGLD-P01-008 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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